

### REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were examined in the outstanding office action mailed on 05/02/2006 (hereafter "Outstanding Office Action"). Applicants note with appreciation that claims 6, 14,  
5 17 and 19 were indicated to be allowable. The remaining claims were rejected.

By virtue of this response, claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 11, 16 and 18 are sought to be amended, claims 2, 9-10, 15, 17 and 19 are sought to be canceled, and new claims 20-23 are sought to be added. The amendments, cancellations and additions are believed not to introduce new subject matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. The amendments, cancellations and  
10 additions are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 4-8, 11-14, 16, 18, and 20-23 are thus respectfully presented for reconsideration.

#### *Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103*

Claims 1, 16, 2, 3, 4, 7-13, 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent Application 2004/0212480 naming as inventor  
15 Carrender *et al* (hereafter "Carrender") in view of US Patent application 2003/0137968 naming as inventor Lareau *et al* (hereafter "Lareau").

Independent claim 1 has been amended to at least substantially include the features of previously allowed claim 17 and previously presented intervening claim 2, and is thus believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 11 is believed to be allowable for similar reasons. Claims  
20 depending from currently amended independent claims 1 and 11 are also believed to be allowable at least as depending from an allowable base claim.

New independent claim 20 recites "... transmitting from each intelligent badge a corresponding one of said plurality of sets of badge identifiers along with a badge identifier  
25 of the intelligent badge, wherein the badge identifiers in each set are sent together associated with the badge identifier of the intelligent badge even if the badge identifiers in the set are

received at different time instances; *said transmitting being performed without requiring a request to transmit from any external systems...*" (*Emphasis Added*).

Neither Carrender nor Lareau appears to recite such a feature. Instead, both Carrender and Lareau appear to require a request for transmission of identifiers from an "external system" (a remote monitoring station in Lareau, and interrogator/reader in Carrender), with individual tags coupled to assets responding to such request by transmitting an identifier.

Thus, new independent claim 20 is believed to be allowable over the art of record. New dependent claims 21-23 are allowable at least as depending from allowable base claim 20.

Thus, all the objections and rejections are believed to be overcome and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at 707.356.4172 if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

/Narendra Reddy Thappeta/

Signature

Date: July 24, 2006

Printed Name: Narendra Reddy Thappeta

Attorney for Applicant

Registration Number: 41,416